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Book club meeting featuring latest book from State Historical Society Press

PIERRE, S.D. -- Marjorie Havreberg shook the prairie dust from her shoes and traveled the wide world.

Havreberg's letters from Washington, D.C., and Turkey comprise *Dancing with Colonels*, a book recently published by the South Dakota State Historical Society Press.

Dancing with Colonels is the featured selection at the January meeting of the History and Heritage Book Club. The book club is sponsored by the SDSHS Press and the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, which is the nonprofit fundraising partner of the SDSHS.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. CST on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Havreberg (1914-1999) grew up in Redfield. She wrote approximately 160 letters to family and close friends in 1936, when she worked for Sen. Peter Norbeck in Washington, D.C., and from 1944-1946, when she a stenographer at the United States Embassy in Ankara, Turkey.

"The life of our guest speaker, Sheila Jimenez, bears similarities to Havreberg's," said Patricia Miller, president of the Historical Society Foundation. "Jimenez is a native of South Dakota whose career has taken her all over the world, including Turkey. Jimenez has worked for a U.S. senator. But while Havreberg's circle of friends included military officers, Jimenez is a military officer."

Jimenez is a colonel in the Air National Guard, currently stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base near Panama City, Fla. She will be joining the History and Heritage Book Club by telephone.

Jimenez joined the Army in 1977 when she was a senior in Leola High School, in order to receive GI Bill benefits for education.

She married, got out of the service and returned to South Dakota. Jimenez worked in Tom Daschle's offices in Aberdeen and Sioux Falls when Daschle was a U.S. Representative and later a U.S. Senator.

"What drew me to working for Daschle was that he was a Vietnam-era veteran and successful in getting Agent Orange legislation passed," Jimenez said. "He taught me

that if you are in the civilian sector, you have to work hard and produce. He also taught me that everyone deserves respect and that one person can make a difference.”

Jimenez missed the camaraderie of the military, though, and joined the South Dakota Air National Guard on a part-time basis. When a full-time position in operations became available in the National Guard, Jimenez applied for the job and was offered it.

She has served full-time in the Air National Guard since 1987 and was promoted to colonel three years ago.

“My career in the military has afforded me the opportunity to travel the world,” Jimenez said. “I’ve had temporary duty assignments to Turkey four or five times, as well as deployments to Kuwait, Qatar, Panama and Bosnia.”

Dancing with Colonels is available at the Heritage Stores at the Cultural Heritage Center and the Capitol. History and Heritage Book Club members receive 10 percent off, and SDSHS members receive an additional 5 percent off the book club selection when purchased at either Heritage Store.

For more information about the History and Heritage Book Club, call (605) 773-6006.

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The South Dakota Historical Society Foundation is a private charitable nonprofit that seeks funding to assist the South Dakota State Historical Society in programming and projects to preserve South Dakota’s history and heritage for future generations.

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society’s world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.